

Dear Members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Catalina Rubí Gonzalez Ortiz, I am from Guatemala, and I live in Hartford. I am a member of the Hartford Deportation Defense.

I support **HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.**

I have 3 children. One will be 3 years old in May, the other is 10, and my oldest daughter, who wasn't born in the United States, turned 13 in November 2022. Because of her age, she doesn't qualify because the law passed in the budget the year before says that it's only up to age 12. We have to pay for all of her physical examinations and medical services. I can't work because after having my baby they found a cyst. Because I don't have insurance, they have not given me treatment nor an operation to take it out. They told me that it's better to wait to see if it gets worse or if it disappears on its own. In my opinion, they told me this because I don't have insurance. They push us aside and they prioritize people with insurance. The checkups alone have cost me \$2,000.

Because of my health condition I don't have a lot of strength and just cleaning in my house causes my leg to swell, I have pain and fatigue. I only carry on for my three children.

Because of this I ask you to support **HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.** Although this would only cover people up to age 26, it's an important step to continue improving access to healthcare in our State.

Thank you for your time,

Catalina Rubí Gonzalez Ortiz